



**DATE:** Tuesday, March 14, 2023

**SUBJECT:** Senate Bill 0075: Insurance and Maryland Medical Assistance Program  
– Treatment of Alopecia Areata – Coverage Requirements

**COMMITTEE:** Senate Finance Committee

The Honorable, Chair Senator Melony Griffith

**POSITION: SUPPORT**

Thank you, Chairperson Griffith, and distinguished members of this committee, for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 785. My name is Dr. Jill Allbritton. I am a board-certified dermatopathologist practicing in Maryland. I am here representing the Maryland Dermatologic Society.

Dermatologists diagnose and treat more than 3,000 diseases, including skin cancer, psoriasis, immunologic diseases, and many genetic disorders.

This legislation would be a critical step to ensure patients whose hair loss results from alopecia areata have access to prescription medicines and hair prostheses.

This is a disease that develops when the body attacks its own hair follicles, which can cause hair loss anywhere on the body. Most people develop it during childhood or their teenage years. Children who suffer from alopecia areata have significant psychological distress with anxiety and depression being commonly diagnosed.

Hair loss caused by alopecia areata can greatly affect a person's quality of life. Also, treatment is beyond the financial reach of most people. This creates problems with access to care and treatment such as hair prostheses and prescription drugs necessary for the treatment. Insurance coverage of alopecia areata would give hope to patients who are suffering.

(Add examples from your practice)

Support for HB 00755

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We appreciate the opportunity to provide written comments on this important public health issue and urge your support for Senate Bill 75. As a physician, my first priority is the health and welfare of my patients. This legislation is a common-sense approach that will benefit our patients.

We urge members of this Committee for a favorable vote.